Subject No. 72.
Introduction of the new Criminal Procedure Code and the Transfer of Property Act.

Summary of discussion.—The new Criminal Procedure Code (as lately enacted by the Government of India) and the Transfer of Property Act may be extended to this State.

Reply of Government.—The introduction of the new Criminal Procedure Code is under consideration. Regarding the Transfer of Property Act, the member is referred to the reply already given in 1896. Subject No. 10.

Subject No. 73.
(a) A Regulation for Minor Municipalities

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) The Minor Municipalities Regulation may be brought into force before long.

Reply of Government.—*Vide* Reply to Subject No. 69 above.

(b) Election of Members to L. F. and Municipal Boards by Raiyats and Rules for Minor Municipalities.

Summary of discussion.—(*b*) The privilege of electing members to Local Fund and Municipal Boards may be allowed to raiyats. Rules may be framed for the guidance of Vice-Presidents, Members and Officials of Minor Municipalities for the discharge of their respective duties.

Reply of Government.—The Draft Regulations relating to Local Fund Boards and Municipalities before Government provide for these matters.

Subject No. 74.
Local Fund Regulation.

Summary of discussion.—It is prayed that the Local Fund Regulation may be soon passed into law.

Reply of Government.—Under consideration.

Subject No. 75.
(a) Draft Regulation for the Amendment of the Chief Court Regulation.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*). The Draft Regulation for the amendment of the Chief Court Regulation provides for the entertainment of two appeals in the Chief Court instead of only one appeal. Two appeals to the Chief Court are costly. This will put the parties concerned to much expense. The procedure may therefore be simplified. The Bangalore Sub-Judge may hear appeals from Munsiffs.

(b) Sub-Registrars to dispose of Small Causes, &c.

(*b*). Sub-Registars may be allowed to entertain Smal Cause cases up to Rs. 50 and pass decrees only in *ex parte* and admitted cases, while in contested cases, the record: may be sent up to Munsiffs for disposal. This would obviate needless journeying and cost.

(c) Establishment of 5 more Sub-Courts.

(*c*. Five more Sub-Judges' Courts may be established at the head-quarters of the Districts where there are no such courts at present, with the powers of Assistan Sessions Judges.

Reply of Government.—Suggestion (*a*) will be considered when the Draft Regulation comes up for final consideration. In the meantime Government will be glad to have the opinion of the Chief Court on (*a*) and (*c*); (*b*) does not commend itself to Government.

Subject No. 76.
Indiscriminate destruction of wild animals and of fish in rivers.

Summary of discussion.—Steps may be taken to check :—

(1) the indiscriminate destruction of wild animals and

(2) the poisoning, dynamiting and netting of fish in rivers.

Reply of Government.—A Draft Regulation with Rules thereunder is under consideration and the disposal thereof will be expedited.

EXCISE.

Subject No. 77.
(a) Bagani Shendi.

Summary of discussion.—(*a*) The Deputy Commissioner of Kadur has not yet settled the question of bagani toddy. The Malnad raiyats are labouring under great difficulties. Early orders are solicited.

Messrs. Srinivasa Rao and Vasudeva Rao of Chikmagalur represented that *native* planters do not require toddy for making bread, that they had always been drawing it for the use of *Jeetgars*, and that if the rules have been correctly interpreted by Government, they may be modified so as to restore the privilege hitherto enjoyed. They added that a similar privilege should be conceded to Kandayam-paying raiyats also.

2. Messrs. Davaru Sastri, Lakshminarnappa, and Channakesava Rao of the Koppa Taluk said that great restrictions had been imposed on the rights of the Malnad raiyats to the bagani trees on their holdings and requested that these may be withdrawn.

Reply of Government.—The order No. 11897-906—Excise 485 of 20th June 1898, seems sufficiently liberal; but the present representation that "Domestic purpose" should be made to include *Jeetgar's* drink is noted for consideration.

(b) Tree marking in Kans.

Summary of discussion.—(*b*) Tree marking in *Kans* may be discontinued as it leads to loss of Revenue and is attended with inconvenience.

Reply of Government.—Cannot be done.

Subject No. 78.
Tapping of date trees on occupied lands.

Summary of discussion.—When date trees on occupied lands are tapped, a tax of Re. 1-1-0 is levied by Government. The owner of the land generally gets only a few annas. Raiyats are thus not encouraged to plant and cultivate date trees. It is prayed that the owner of the land may be paid Re. 1 for each tree, the cess of one anna going to Government.

Mr. D. Venkatramaiya of Bangalore said that tree-rent had been held in abeyance in Government lands for 3 years. That being so, contractors naturally do not go to occupied lands and pay extra rent to the occupant in addition to Re. 1-1-0, which is all that they have to pay for trees in Government lands. Tree-tax itself is an anomaly and should be abolished. The imposition of a duty of so much per gallon is preferable.

2. Mr. Mallappa of the Local Fund Board, French Rocks, requested that the tax payable by contractors to Government might be reduced, in order that the contractors might pay more to the owners for the trees on their lands.